GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:150
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
TOURISM PROMOTION IN TSUNAMI HIT STATES
Adityanath Yogi Shri ;Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism industry has been severely affected by the recent Tsunami on the Indian coast;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided by the Government to those who were killed and also to undo the damage caused to such tourist places;

(d) whether there is any difference in the number of tourists who visited the country in the same season last year and this year; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to augment the inflow of domestic and foreign tourists and put back on rails the tourism industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.150 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.3.2005 REGARDING TOURISM PROMOTION IN TSUNAMI HIT STATES.

(a): No, Sir. Some damage to tourism properties has been reported by the affected States / Union Territories in the Southern Region. Tourist arrivals to the country have, however, not been adversely affected due to the Tsunami.

(b) and (c): Assessment of the damage caused has been obtained from the concerned State Governments / Union Territories and details received are given below:

(i) Andaman & Nicobar Islands : Most of the damage has occurred in the Nicobar Group of Islands, where tourism activities are not permitted so far. The damage to tourism properties in the Andaman Group of Islands has been comparatively less and these islands have been safe for tourism related activities.

(ii) Andhra Pradesh : The compound wall of the A.P. Tourism run Beach Resort at Suryalanka, Guntur District, has been damaged due to the Tsunami.

(iii) Kerala : Beaches of Kovalam, Veli-Shanghumukom, Varkala, Cherai, Thirumullavaram, Alappuzha, Kumbalagi, Kozhikode, Bekal, Fort Kochi, Muzhippilangad and the Ashtamudi Backwater Front have been affected.

(iv) Pondicherry : Some damage reported to the St. James Court Beach Resort, Chunnambar Resort, Hotel Pondicherry Ashok and Dolphin Beach, Seagulls Restaurant and Water Sports Complex in Karaikal Region and Boat Club and Seagulls Restaurant in Yanam Region.

(v) Tamil Nadu : Tourist cottages / beach resorts, hotels, boat jetty, launches, tourist amenities, view tower, beach facilities, etc. at Mamallapuram, Muttukadu, Kanniyakumari, Mudaliyarkuppam, Nagapattinam, Velankanni and Poompuhar have been damaged.

The Central and the respective State Governments / Union Territories are providing necessary rehabilitation and relief measures to those who were affected by the Tsunami. The concerned State Governments / Union Territories are undertaking the work of reconstruction of the damaged tourism properties. The Ministry of Tourism assists State Governments / Union Territories by providing Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects and infrastructure, based on specific proposals submitted by the State Governments / Union Territories.

(d): The tourist arrivals to the country, after the tsunami, continued to register an increase over the corresponding period last year. The tourist arrival figures during the period December 2004 − February 2005 and the corresponding figures for the previous year are given below :

Sr.No.		2003	2004	2005	% Change 2004/03	% Change 2005/04
1.	December	319271	394166#	-	+ 23.5	-
2.	January	-	317510	363631#	-	+ 14.5
3.	February	-	317498	372269#	-	+ 17.3

Provisional

(e): Promotion of tourism to further augment the inflow of tourists is being undertaken on a regular basis, through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy and a synergized campaign in association with the travel trade and State Governments. The promotional activities being undertaken include advertising in the print and electronic media, participation in Fairs and Exhibitions, organizing Seminars, Workshops and Road Shows, Brochure and Joint advertising support, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit India under the Hospitality Programme, so as to project India as a safe destination for travel.